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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-first session

Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

(*item 4 (a)*)

Section 4. Disarmament

1. At its 16th meeting, on 21 June 2001, the Committee considered section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced section 4 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. The importance of the programme was stressed and support was expressed for the activities carried out by the Department for Disarmament Affairs. It was reaffirmed that the main responsibilities for disarmament lay with Member States and that the United Nations had a central role and primary responsibility in supporting Member States in that sphere.

4. It was noted that, in general, the narrative for section 4 complied with the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. However, concern was expressed that, in some instances, the narrative deviated from the language contained in the plan. It was also observed that further refinements to the indicators of achievement were needed in order to ensure that they could be effectively measurable and quantifiable.

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5. The need to maintain balance among the various subprogrammes was underscored. Views were expressed that work in the field of nuclear weapons was not given the emphasis it deserved. It was also expressed that undue emphasis had been given to work in the field of landmines.

6. The role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament-negotiating forum of the international community was stressed. It was stated that efforts should be made to reinvigorate the work of the Conference, which had shown little progress in recent years, and to adopt a programme of work.

7. Support was expressed for the activities of the United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme, which were considered instrumental in providing training for officials of national Governments, particularly those from developing countries. Such training had contributed to the enhancement of the expertise and skills needed for effective participation in international deliberations and negotiations on disarmament.

8. Support was also expressed for the activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa and the regional centres for peace and disarmament, particularly the Lomé and Lima centres. It was stated that efforts should be made to ensure that the regional centres were adequately funded in order to enable them to fully carry out their mandates. In that context, the adequacy of funding the activities of the regional centres largely through extrabudgetary resources was questioned.

9. The view was expressed that the workshops referred to in subprogramme 5, paragraphs 4.38 (a) (v) and (ix) should focus their efforts on the updating and harmonization of national legislation on light weapons in accordance with the outcomes of the 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects.

10. The appropriateness of including the external factor "national institutions will be supportive of gender balance issues" (para. 4.37 (f)) in the section's subprogrammes was questioned, for such a factor seemed to be irrelevant to the achievement of the goals of the disarmament work programme. On the other hand, views were also expressed that such an external factor was relevant since it referred to the indicators of achievement and were not meant to be a condition for the achievement of the goals of the disarmament work programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, subject to the following modifications:

Paragraph 4.1

Replace the entire paragraph with the following:

"General and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control remains the ultimate goal of all efforts exerted in the field of disarmament. The main responsibilities for disarmament lie with Member States, and the United Nations, in accordance with its Charter, has a central role and primary responsibility in supporting Member States

in this sphere. The Department for Disarmament Affairs, headed by an Under-Secretary-General, is responsible for the implementation of the programme".

Paragraph 4.2

Reformulate the text of the paragraph to read as follows:

"The mandate for the programme derives from the priorities established in General Assembly resolutions and decisions in the field of disarmament, including the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (resolution S-10/2). While weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, continue to be the primary concern, the Organization would also continue its work in the field of conventional disarmament".

Paragraph 4.4

In the first sentence, replace the phrase "as well as to expert groups on disarmament studies" with "as well as review conferences, other meetings of States parties to multilateral agreements on disarmament and related matters, and expert groups assisting the Secretary-General in undertaking disarmament studies".

Paragraph 4.4 bis

Insert a new paragraph to read as follows: "Training and advisory services will continue to be provided through the United Nations disarmament fellowships, training and advisory services programme and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, for Member States, in particular developing countries, to enhance their expertise with a view to participating more effectively in international deliberating and negotiating forums. The Department will also assist Member States in increasing understanding among them of the relationship between disarmament and development".

Paragraph 4.6

Delete the words "and landmine issues".

Paragraph 4.14

In the second sentence, after the phrase "international disarmament agenda", delete the phrase "in order to make them conform to the new international political and security environments".

Replace the third and fourth sentences with the following:

"The Conference on Disarmament will be finalizing its work programme, which will include resuming negotiations on a number of disarmament issues and continuing the promotion of global disarmament, in accordance with its agenda".

Table 4.7

Under Indicators of achievement, in paragraph (a), after the words "effectiveness of" add the words "the services provided by the Secretariat to facilitate".

Replace paragraph (c) with the following:

> **"An increase in the number of applicants for the United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme and wider representation of Member States in the programme and greater support for the disarmament fellowship programme from Member States".**

Table 4.9

Under Expected accomplishments, in paragraph (a), replace the text after the words "disarmament issues" with the following: "on matters related to weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, by Member States".

In paragraph (b), replace the words "including the issue of missiles" with the words "on specific issues related to weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons".

Under Indicators of achievement, paragraph (a) (i) should read: "A record of appreciation for assistance provided, including substantive and organizational support, for the implementation of agreements in the field of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons. This would include sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference and ad hoc meetings".

Paragraph 4.25

In subparagraph (a) (iv), delete the words "and the panel of governmental experts on missiles (2 sessions, 40 meetings, 2000)".

In subparagraph (a) (v), after the words "2 sessions", add the words "40 meetings, 2002" within the parentheses.

12. In all instances where the words "weapons of mass destruction" appear, if it has not already been done, insert a comma after the word "destruction" and add the words "in particular nuclear weapons".